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~~means for moving the carrier to an unloading position at which the carrier is in a second orientation, the moving means including means for translating the carrier and means for rotating the carrier, wherein the translating means and rotating means are independently controlled.~~

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3. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the translating means moves the carrier along a substantially linear path.

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~~13. (Amended) Apparatus for unloading containers of rod-like articles as claimed in claim 1, said means for moving the carrier to an unloading position being configured such that said articles are unloaded through an open end of said container, and further comprising means for conveying unloaded articles away from the unloading position along a path, wherein the conveying means extend substantially across said open end at said unloading position except at said path.~~